

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of this application as amended. Claims 1-24 are pending in the application. Claims 1, 2, 10, 15, 20 and 24 have been amended. No claims have been added. Claims 3-6, 11-14 and 16-22 have been cancelled.

The Examiner indicated that claims 6, 10, 17, and 24 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Without admitting any of the Examiner's rejections were proper, Applicants have amended claims 1, 2, 10, 15, 20 and 24 to include substantially all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits claims 1-2, 7-10 and 23-24 are in condition for allowance. Applicants have cancelled the remaining claims and will pursue those in a continuation.

Please charge any shortages and credit any overcharges to our Deposit Account No. 02-2666.

Respectfully submitted,

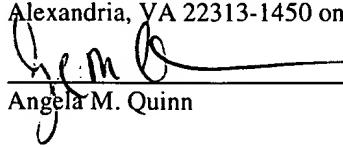
BLAKELY SOKOLOFF TAYLOR & ZAFMAN LLP

Dated: July, 2004


Michael J. Mallie
Attorney for Applicant
Registration No. 36,591

12400 Wilshire Boulevard
Seventh Floor
Los Angeles, CA 90025-1026
(408) 720-8300

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail with sufficient postage in an envelope addressed to Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on July 20, 2004.


Angela M. Quinn

July 20, 2004
Date